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"The government must show a stronger will to protect the liberties of the people."

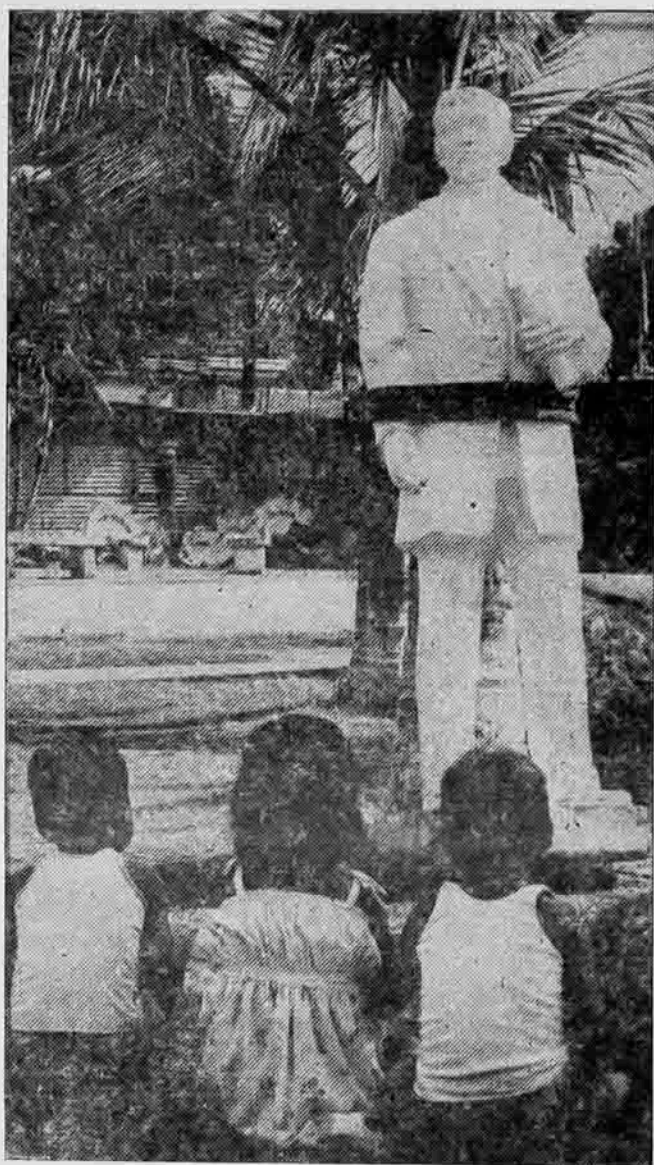
President Marcos, Labor Day celebration May 1, 1970



the national weekly
FORUM
of free expression



VOL. III NO. 1 * PCPM Cert. No. 387 * FOR THE WEEK APRIL 28—MAY 4, 1979 * 50 CVOS. IN METRO MANILA



RIZAL TIED — This unique photo of a statue of Jose Rizal tied around the waist against a coconut tree was submitted by our roving WE photographer. It was taken at the Pasay City sports complex which is now undergoing development. For a national hero who gave up his life for freedom, this photo is quite symbolic these days.

More opposition to M'danao poll

The proposal to cancel the May 7 election in Mindanao and the creation of a coalition government composed of representatives from the administration, the opposition and the rebel groups, is being supported by the Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization (BMLO).

In a statement to WE, the BMLO which is the umbrella organization of Muslim groups working for Mindanao autonomy, said that it opposes the scheduled regional assembly

(Sangguniang pampook) elections for Regions 9 and 12 not only because it will only "perpetuate Moro division" but also because it is a "clear avoidance of the Tripoli agreement signed in December, 1976."

However, the statement adds, it welcomes the proposal urging the administration to form a coalition government to be composed of representatives from the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan and all opposition parties and independent sectors in Mindanao. The representatives as proposed, will be appointed by President Marcos on the recommendation of the parties participating in the coalition government.

NINOY

Briefly, for two hours, ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr. was with his family and relatives when military authorities granted the opposition leader a home visit at the Aquino residence in Quezon City last Sunday night, April 22.

But even then, some 30 security guards were with him as he went about the house and enjoyed a flight. (Page 2, please)

DEPLORABLE

Inflation and development

(Paper read by former Con-Con delegate Alejandro Lichauco before a consumers' group in Cebu City.)

by ALEJANDRO LICHAUO

Philippine inflation is attended by certain deplorable features which distinguish it significantly from the inflation that afflicts many countries in Asia.

First, inflation here is considerably higher than in many other Asian countries. This feature of Philippine inflation, in fact, had been reported as early as 1970 by the International Monetary Fund. A paper on "Philippine Inflation, 1955-1974", written by Associate Professor Romeo M. Bautista of the School of Economics at the University of the Philippines, contends that, in the Philippines, "prices generally have risen at

annual rates which are high in relation to historical experience and by (Page 7, please)

Garments Board scrapped?

Has the Garments and Textile Exporting Board been abolished?

This question was raised last week by garments and textile manufacturers following the sudden closure of the board's offices at the 7th floor of the Banco Filipino building on Intramuros and the absence of key officials who (Page 2, please)

EDITORIAL

WE's commitment

With this issue, we celebrate our third year of publication. And our ardent wish and prayer is that we will continue publishing next year, the year after next, and every year hence. Martial law or no martial law.

We have gone a long way — from an 8" x 11" sized fortnightly to a standard-sized weekly tabloid.

(Page 4, please)

After 7 years of unfreedom

(Excerpt from the inaugural address of Raul M. Gonzalez, WE columnist and newly-inducted president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Manila IV Chapter).

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

Today our country remains under martial law. Seven years of unfreedom. Whether you are among those who have found new privileges or power or opportunities, or whether you are among those who have been dispossessed of properties, or have lost sons or daughters, or husbands into the different military concentration camps — or (Page 7, please)



SEVENTEENER — Jacqueline Baecher, 17 years old and senior High School student of the Philippine Women's University, loves singing, dancing and motorbike riding.

Case of 'overstaying incumbent President'

by FRANCISCO 'SOC' RODRIGO

PART III

We have a system of government that is self-contradictory and self-defeating. By mandate of the Marcos Constitution, our government is supposed to be parliamentary, but that very same Constitution, in its Transitory Provisions, maintains in office the "incumbent president" under the 1935 Constitution . . . and, (Page 2, please)

SPEAK UP

An open letter to Pres. Marcos

by JOSE S. PADOLINA
4-D Magalang, Q.C.

Allow me to address you this letter not by reason that you are President of your people, not that you are Prime Minister of the present government, but that you are Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines. I am writing you this letter in your capacity. (Page 2, please)

At a glance • At a glance

* **ERNIE RODRIGUEZ PAYS TRIBUTE TO FRED RUIZ CASTRO** P. 5

CASE OF OVERSTAYING... (from page 1)

what is worse, expands his powers to that of a dictator.

Our prognosis before martial law came out true. As I already said, we divined that Mr. Marcos would not be satisfied with the Second Option; because, in a Parliamentary Government, his powers as Prime Minister would be much less and his position less secure than as President.

What did he do? He declared martial law; and, using his martial law powers, he coerced and cajoled the Constitutional Convention to dismantle the presidential system under the 1935 Constitution and establish instead a parliamentary government. Thus, he successfully eliminated the constitutional obstacle to his continuing as president after December 30, 1973.

But, simultaneously, he rammed into the constitution the Transitory Provisions which maintain in power the "incumbent president" (meaning, Ferdinand E. Marcos) and invest him with dictatorial powers.

Immediately upon declaration of martial law, Mr. Marcos issued General Order No. 1, which reads:

"NOW THEREFORE, I Ferdinand E. Marcos, President of the Philippines x x x do hereby proclaim that I shall govern the nation and direct the operation of the entire government, including all its agencies and instrumentalities x x x"

This means one-man rule or dictatorship.

But Mr. Marcos was not satisfied with merely proclaiming himself dictator. He wanted the new constitution, which was then being drafted by the Con-Con, to anoint his dictatorship with legality. He beguiled and twisted the arms of Con-Con delegates to incorporate into the proposed constitution the following provision in the Transitory Provisions (Art. XVII, Sec. 3, par. 2):

"(2) All proclamations, orders, decrees, instructions, and acts promulgated, issued, or done by the incumbent president shall be part of the law of the land, and shall remain valid, legal, binding, and effective even after the lifting of martial law or the ratification of the Constitution x x x"

This gave constitutional sanction to his General Order No. 1. Thus, Mr. Marcos succeeded in putting a veneer of constitutionality on his dictatorship.

But, this was not all. In the same Transitory Provisions, he insisted on the following provision (Art. XVII, Sec. 3, par. 1):

"The incumbent President of the Philippines x x x shall continue to exercise his powers and prerogatives under the nineteen hundred and thirty five Constitution and the powers vested in the President and Prime Minister under this Constitution x x x"

Still, Mr. Marcos was

not content. He wanted to be vested with sole and absolute power to remove and/or change any and all officials of the government, including judges and justices... thus destroying the security of tenure of civil service employees and the independence of the judiciary. He had the following sections incorporated in the Transitory Provisions (Art. XVII, secs. 9 and 10):

"SEC. 9. All officials and employees in the government of the Republic of the Philippines shall continue in office until otherwise provided by law or decreed by the incumbent President of the Philippines x x x"

"SEC. 10. The incumbent members of the judiciary may continue in office until they reach the age of seventy, unless sooner replaced in accordance with the preceding section."

Thus, the proposed constitution that came out of the Constitutional Convention was a freak and a monstrosity. It was a composite of opposites... parliamentary on its facade, but dictatorial in its core.

Subsequent events further snarled the Gordian Knot.

The 1935 Constitution contained a very clear provision on the manner amendments to the constitution must be submitted to the people for ratification. It is by means of an "election"... commonly referred to as plebiscite. (1935 Constitution, Art. XV, sec. 1)

This mandate was flagrantly violated in the so-called ratification of the 1973 Constitution. The Plebiscite which was set on January 15, 1973 was suddenly "postponed indefinitely"... when Mr. Marcos sensed that his proposed constitution would be rejected by the people in a free and honest election.

You know the rest: Within a period of less than ten days, he claimed to have organized Barangays or Citizens Assemblies all over the country for the alleged purpose of "loose consultation" with the people on some unimportant subjects. He decreed that, in said "loose consultation", even 15-year olds, illiterates, imbeciles, and ex-convicts could vote... by viva voce or mere raising of hands. He removed the supervision of valid voting from the Comelec, which was then chairmanned by Jaime Ferrer. Then, at almost the last minute, he added the question on the ratification of the proposed constitution.

So blatant was the violation of the constitutional provision on amendments that six (6) out of ten (10) justices held that "the Constitution proposed by the 1971 Constitutional Convention was not validly ratified in accordance with Article XV, section 1 of the 1935 Constitution".

However, the voting was reversed on the matter of dismissing the petition... 6 out of 10 justices voting for its dismissal. So, in a masterpiece

OPEN LETTER... (from page 1)

ty as the great leader of the revolution, a peaceful one.

When you issued Proclamation 1081 on September 21, 1972 the Philippine Territory was declared in a state of peaceful revolution. It was instituted to dismantle the military hardware of subversion. And in its place to substitute radical reforms that could not be provided by the old and sickly society which ushered the New Society, with the bold concepts for upliftment of the common people in all fields.

The New Society is anchored on giving an opportunity long due the masses that could not be achieved by legislation under the old society. In short, the people's acceptance of the Martial Law Regime is to radiate radical social amelioration.

At its inception the revolution was successful. The leader was fearless not only against his enemies but even against his own kins and friends who tried to degrade the aims of the revolution.

The people were happy and proud. The revolution really meant business. Even the housewives were all smiles because husbands were brought together by the curfew law.

We saw the great victory of our tenants from the bondage of slavery over the land they tilled for generations after generations.

We saw the much-needed shield of our apartment-dwellers who pay P300 or below a month as those who leased a real estate for the same amount for dwelling purposes.

We saw the purging of corrupt employees and public officials in all levels and departments of the government.

It was designed for our people to have faith in the government and its officials from the lowest rank to the highest.

We saw the unlimited introduction of massive infrastructure in public works and development. Schools, hospitals, markets, bridges and housing mushroomed.

We witnessed the rebirth of the smallest unit of government, the barangay, to give people of all walks of life a chance to participate in the affairs of the go-

of non sequitur, the Supreme Court ruled that "there is no more judicial obstacle to the new Constitution being considered in force and effect." (Javellana vs. The Executive Secretary, 50 SCRA 30)

This further compounded the complexity of the Gordian Knot. It now appears that we are stuck with a constitution that was ratified in violation of the constitution. So, notwithstanding the absence of "judicial obstacle" to the enforcement of the 1973 Constitution, the nagging question still persists: Was its ratification constitutional and legal? Hence, which of the two constitutions... the 1935 or the 1973... is constitutionally and legally valid and in force?

(TO BE CONTINUED)

GARMENTS... (from page 1)

used to process important papers.

It was gathered that the GTEB offices were suddenly transferred to the Ministry of Trade where only three personnel have been assigned to do routine work.

As a result of this, garments and textile manufacturers are in a quandary where to secure their so-called quota allocation for the exportation of textile and all man-made fibers and ready-made wearables to the United States.

Every manufacturer who does business of exporting these items to the U.S. is required to secure a quota allocation from the Board. The quota has been imposed by the United States government which had earlier limited to 10% all garments exports from the Philippines.

It was gathered that garments and textiles are the top non-traditional exports of the Philippines. Last year, some \$187 million worth of garments and textiles were exported to the U.S.

The Board was created in 1875 and has been charged with overseeing the flow of exports of local textile and garments manufactures.

verment.

We witnessed the beautification of the entire country, particularly, the Metro Manila Area. Market places were greatly improved so that eyesores became objects of beauty. Tourism became a major industry, a dollar revenue source.

In summary, the revolution became successful for a while.

We urge you, Mr. President, to be more vigilant and brave in the face of the opposition who try to undermine the noble aims of the revolution for radical reforms.

We urge you, Mr. President, to abolish without delay the IBP which from its showing has worked against the welfare of the poor. The IBP has become a liability than an asset. Its maintenance is too expensive. Its budget could be siphoned for housing and agricultural needs of our farmers.

We urge you, Mr. President, thru a PD to sell to bona-fide apartment dwellers irrespective of rentals all dwelling apartments in accordance with a government scheme and procedure.

We urge you, Mr. President, for the enactment of dynamic and radical laws designed for the upliftment of the masses to save them from further submerging into poverty. At present the rich become richer and the poor become poorer. And there are many misbegotten millionaires because of misbegotten wealth.

We urge you, Mr. President, for the immediate overhauling of all government offices so that the misfits could be weeded out and the corrupt sent to jail.

We urge you, Mr. Presi-

OPPOSITION... (from page 1)

cal council; Sultan Raschid Lucman, chairman, supreme executive council and attested by Prof. Macapanton Y. Abbas, Jr., secretary-general.

The BMLO statement presented by spokesman Omar Samaraya to WE reads in part:

"We urge all right thinking Filipinos and even Marcos in the present government to petition the Marcos government to implement the Tripoli Agreement because it is the only basis of peace. The Filipino people must ask Marcos to stop the Mindanao war. We call on the Armed Forces of the Philippines to come to its senses that they are not fighting for the integrity of the Republic but for its disintegration. The Muslims merely want autonomy and not secession.

"Finally, we welcome the Parliamentary Committee as proposed by Camacho-Dianalan because any sincere effort towards peace must be encouraged and supported for we are all struggling for peace."

President Marcos had earlier formally invited other rebel groups, particularly Nu, Misuari and Hashim Salamat, both of the splintered Moro National Liberation Front, to take part in the May 7 poll. While the two rebel leaders have reportedly announced their intention to boycott the election, other ranking MNLF leaders were said to be set in joining the elections.

dent, to free ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr. from detention. Aquino is leadership by itself. He belongs to the people. Let us not waste his life. His usefulness to his country is a necessity. We beg you Mr. President — FREE AQUINO FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE.

We urge you not to relax in the patriotic pursuit of your sacred purposes for which the Martial Law Regime was created. People around you who undermine the welfare of the country for their personal aggrandizement must be prosecuted to the fullest.

NINYO... (from page 1)

ting moment of domestic bliss.

The former Tarlac senator, who has been under detention for the past six and a half years, was allowed to visit his home to greet 21-year-old daughter Aurora Corazon, who graduated cum laude Sunday from the University of the Philippines.

Sunday's home visit was the first for Aquino since he was arrested September 1972 and the ninth occasion he was allowed out of his Fort Bonifacio cell.

When Ninoy arrived, only his son Noynoy was around, the rest of the family having gone out for dinner to celebrate Aurora Corazon's graduation earlier in the afternoon. A family reunion among hastily-called relatives took place an hour after Ninoy's arrival.

The Aquino visit came as a surprise to many, including sympathizers who have been waging a nation-wide campaign for his release.

The "Free Ninoy" drive, launched sometime in February has been gaining grounds throughout the country. Several prominent citizens, among whom are 18 former senators and cop members of the clergy, including Jaime Cardinal L. Sin, have petitioned President Marcos to release the 46-year-old opposition leader from military custody.

The campaign also involves the solicitation of a million signatures appealing for Ninoy's freedom. A "prayer rally" was also held last month urging the faithful to pray for the former senator's freedom and for national unity.

Let us not plant the seed of a bloody revolution. We have already shed so much blood and have given so many lives for this nation. Let this nation stay as one and strong thru a happy and contented people.

Let it be made clear that I am not against the Martial Law Regime. I am for its success. History will tell that you have been a hero of your people.

LET'S GIVE

FREEDOM

A CHANCE!

METRO MANILA NEWS



Major roads under MMC

From now on, the maintenance and improvement of all national roads and streets in Metro Manila will be under the responsibility of the Metro Manila Commission, according to an announcement made last Wednesday by MMC Assistant to the Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr.

Previously, such thoroughfares were under the exclusive jurisdiction of Ministry of Public Highways which maintained offices of highways district engineers in Manila, Quezon City, Pasay City and Caloocan City.

However, because of long delays in the repair and improvement of the national thoroughfares in the four cities and 13 municipalities, President Marcos has decided to transfer responsibility from the MPH to the MMC.

All the major roads and streets in Metro Manila are national.

The MMC will undertake road maintenance and improvement through the various city and municipal engineers in all local governments of the metropolitan area. It was reported that a special office will be set up at the commission to direct, manage and coordinate all road repair, maintenance and improvement in the region.

In announcing the takeover by the MMC of national road maintenance from the Ministry of Public Highways, Mathay, Jr. said the sum of P12-million has been transferred from the MPH to the commission.

Of the 2,809 kilometers of roads in Metro Manila, 888 kilometers are national roads, while the remaining 1,911 kilometers are city or municipal streets. The transfer maintenance responsibility is expected to speed up road repair since under the set-up local executive will be able to concentrate their attention on the entire road network in their area and not just on local streets.

Meanwhile, Mathay reminded contractors undertaking road repair in Metro Manila that they have only up to the end of April to finish their job. Contracts for unfinished projects after the new deadline, he said, will be canceled.

The ultimatum was issued by Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos last March in the wake of complaints that the slow pace of repair

work in road projects is causing traffic jams and endangering the safety of metropolitan residents.

Road projects required to be completed by April 30 are Sucat road in Parañaque, the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue-South Superhighway interchange and the Quirino Highway extension in Novaliches.

59 HECTARES TRANSFERRED

QUEZON CITY — The transfer of the titles by the National Housing Authority (NHA) to the city government of 59 hectares of open spaces is awaiting the approval of the Metro Manila Commission.

These open spaces include the 12-hectare City Hall compound given by the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation, predecessor of the NHA to the city government in the middle of 1950s, as well as the lots set aside by the PHHC for parks, playgrounds, school sites and health center sites in Projects 2, 3 and 4 in Quirino District, Project 6, Project 7 (Veterans Village) and Project 8.

Former QC Councillor Melencio Castelo, now com-

munity relations officer, told this newspaper that an agreement has already been reached between the NHA General Manager Gaudencio Tobias and QC Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez for the transfer of the titles of the lands by the NHA to the city.

In fact, according to him, Mayor Rodriguez has already submitted the papers to the Metro Manila Commission for approval.

A few days ago, Castelo followed up the matter with MMC Assistant to the Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. in the presence of the Mail editor, and Mathay, Jr. assured the QC official that he would approve the transfer.

NEWS DEALERS AS INFO MEN

QUEZON CITY — The magazine and newspaper stands in this city will not only sell magazines, newspapers, books and other reading material. They will also serve as information centers for the city government, particularly to visitors and tourists.

This was agreed upon between Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez and the Quezon City Newspaper and Magazine Association.

(Page 6, please)

How much will be pay increase?

One week before May 1, which is the scheduled date for the effectivity of the new increases of salaries of government employees, the 50,000 workers of the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila have one question uppermost in their minds:

"How much will be the pay increases?"

As of now, no policy has yet been announced by the Metro Manila Commission on the matter. The issue was discussed last Wednesday, at a meeting between the 17 local government

treasurers and MMC officials, but no decision was arrived at. The treasurers, however, declared that their respective governments could afford to give 10 to 30 percent in salary hikes starting May 1.

Earlier, MMC Assistant to the Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. told this newspaper that he will first have to consult Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos as to the rate of increase to be given to all Metro Manila workers.

But on the basis of the

(Page 6, please)

30 o/o in Caloocan

CALOOCAN CITY — The city government has decided to give a 30 percent across-the-board salary increase to all officials and employees, according to Acting City Mayor Virgilio P. Robles. The salary hike will take effect on May 1.

The city executive said

a supplemental budget is under preparation by Budget Officer Dafrosa Dacumos involving the amount of P2.7-million. This special appropriations measure will be submitted early this week to the Metro Manila Commission for approval.

(Page 6, please)

Robles creates Enercon group

CALOOCAN CITY — To promote energy conservation in the city, Acting Mayor Virgilio P. Robles has issued Executive Order No. 142 creating "Task Force Enercon."

In creating the body, the acting mayor cited the order of President Marcos calling upon the people "to fully support the energy conservation program of the government."

He also invited attention to the instruction issued by the Metro Manila Commission for each functional sector situated within the Metro Manila Area to reduce energy consumption by 10 percent.

Task Force Enercon, under the mayor's executive order, "will plan, implement, enforce, monitor and evaluate energy conservation measures in the City."

The composition of the body is as follows:

Mayor Robles — chairman; Romeo T. Luz — executive officer; David V. Catanyag — assistant executive officer; and the following as members:

Engr. Abelardo G. Cruz, P/Lt. Col. Benedicto Serano, Atty. Amado B. Crescini, Jr., Florentino Santiago, Jose Gonzales, Dr. Evaristo Mendoza, Engr. Salvador Tiangco, and Ramon Manalo.

Executive Officer Luz has been directed, under the executive order, "to convene the members of the Task Force so that they can start planning and implementing energy conservation guidelines based on a memorandum dated 19 March 1979 of the Assistant to the Governor, Metropolitan Manila Commission."

FIRE DRILLS SET IN M'LA

MANILA — Following the drawing up of its "Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan for City Hall", city government officials and employees will soon undertake regular fire and evacuation drills.

The drills, according to sources close to Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing, may start early next month, after the rules and regulations for the implementation of the "Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan" are drawn up and circularized among City Hall's 22,000 personnel.

Under the plan, drills intended to acquaint all officials and employees with the proper and orderly evacuation of City Hall, as well as the saving of classified and important records and documents, in

case of an emergency, will be conducted regularly.

For this purpose, the plan has named Mayor Bagatsing as the fire safety director. Under him, 12 floor evacuation directors will function, each floor of City Hall to have three directors.

All division chiefs of the city government are appointed assistant evacuation directors, while all section chiefs will function as evacuation captains.

The plan also creates a fire command station under Fire Superintendent Federico Garcia. A fire brigade is given the task of combating the fire, while a salvage squad will take care of saving classified and important records and documents. Searchers are to be appointed to look for missing persons, at the rate of two searchers (one

Here's good news

Here's good news to the financially-pressed cities and municipalities of Metro Manila.

The MMC has issued Finance Circular No. 02, S-79, hiking the share of the local governments in the increase of their collections of the one percent realty special education fund, from 50 percent to 75 percent.

Under the law, cities and towns are entitled to a 50 percent share of the increased SEF collection between what was collected in Fiscal Year 1971-72 and the amount collected in succeeding years.

Under Finance Circular No. 02, S-79 of the MMC, the 50 percent share is now increased to 75 percent.

In Quezon City, City Treasurer Anselmo O. Regis said that an additional P3-million will accrue to the general fund.

P1-M sports complex in Lamesa due

NOVALICHES — A government assisted subdivision will soon have its own sports complex.

This was bared by Cesar Liangson, chairman of the Federation of Block Associations of the GSIS Lamesa homesite, a subdivision financially assisted by the Government Service Insurance System.

Liangson said that an appropriation of P1-M has been appropriated by the Quezon City government. The project has been ap-

(Page 6, please)

In every living thing,
There is a spirit
to be free





Editorial

WE: COMMITMENT (from page 1)

Our maiden issue which came out on Labor Day, May 1, 1977, carried a main article assessing the situation in the realm of press freedom and an editorial which expounded on what we have always prided ourselves to be our guiding principle: "To seek and live the truth and share a vision."

We believe we have not failed in living up to this ideal in every issue of WE.

And so as we go into our third year, we reiterate our commitment — a commitment to the truth, to journalistic integrity and responsibility, to espousing the peoples' desire for freedom and human rights, to establishing a forum for free expression and discussion, to bringing to public focus the proverbial other side of the coin.

Furthermore, we want to assure the powers-that-be that we have no intention of undermining the government. Nor do we advocate any ideology that would divide our country through violence or chaos. We stand four square behind peace and democracy.

But we are against the continued imposition of martial law. We believe that martial law has outlived its usefulness and should now be dismantled so that every Filipino will exercise his civil and political rights to choose the people who should run the affairs of the state.

It is precisely because of our commitment to the democratic precepts that we have been agitating in our pages for the immediate lifting of one-man rule. And we have shared the same pages to anybody who would take issue with us.

Katotohanan. Katarungan. Kalayaan. Itang aming ipinaglalaman sa pahayagang ito. Ang mithiin ng mamamayang Pilipino ay aming mithiin din.

National Shrines

by LILIA RAMOS-DE LEON

A shrine tells not only of the technical skill of its builders but, most of all, of the psyche of an age and of its people. The Philippines has thirteen national shrines — some created by executive order, others by congressional legislation, and on August 1, 1973, P.D. 260 empowered the National Historical Institute to "declare . . . historical and cultural sites as National Shrine, Monument, and/or Landmarks . . ."

FREEDOM SHRINE

The oldest structure among our national shrines is Fort Santiago, "Dambana ng Kalayaan." It was declared a national shrine on March 6, 1951 . . . in memory of Rizal and other national heroes and martyrs who were confined or who lost their lives therein for freedom.

Before the advent of the Spaniards, Rajah Soliman's Muslim settlement, palisaded with coconut trunks

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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
Publisher-Editor

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE
A VISION.

BEST FROM THE DAILIES



Times Journal

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



GIVE FREEDOM A CHANCE

by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

To those who have been struggling for the return of democracy and the restoration to the people of their political rights, here's a line from Thomas Paine: "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

This issue ushers in our third year of continuous publication and we are mighty proud about it.

We believe that since our maiden issue rolled off the press on May 1, 1977, we have been trying hard, despite the odds, to fill a void created by the imposition of martial law which, in turn, engendered a dismal situation that has made a glaring mockery of our cherished press freedom and freedom of speech.

To carry out this delicate task, we have opened our pages for the articulation of the masses' feelings and aspirations and the intellection of known oppositionists' positions vis-a-vis the policies and programs of one-man rule.

We have since published the unexpurgated opinions of such opposition leaders as former President Diosdado Macapagal, ex-Senators Roxas, Salonga, Ta-

ñada, Rodrigo and Diokno — all of whom, unfortunately, could not get their statements printed in any other publication. We are glad that we have accommodated these gentlemen's views and thereby debunk the old-line criticism that "before martial law, our politicians talk and talk without thinking while under martial law they think and think without talking."

We have also encouraged the ordinary citizen to say his piece in our "Speak Up" and "We, the people" columns and from our experience, we like to think that we have somehow succeeded in drawing other opinion writers from their cocoon of forced silence out into the open even amidst the threat of martial law authorities to arrest any one who would express dissent against the established order.

That is why, with this issue, we have decided to play up in our logo the phrase "The national weekly forum of free expression" to emphasize the dire need for people to cast off their timidity and apprehensions and take issue with us in our humble campaign to "give freedom another chance."

and guarded by Panday Pira's lantakas, sprawled where Fort Santiago now stands.

Rajah Soliman initially resisted Spanish rule, burning his kingdom when he could not fight off invaders, but eventually Miguel Lopez de Legazpi succeeded in seducing him and the two other leaders of Manila into accepting the friendship and sovereignty of the Spaniards. For a time, Soliman collaborated with the conquistadores even accompanying them in at least one of their campaigns for the "pacification" of the natives.

On the site of Soliman's razed fortress, Legazpi constructed a wooden fort,

the predecessor of what would later be the most beautiful and enduring citadel in the Orient. It was named after Spain's patron saint: San Santiago.

Soliman's valor is properly evoked in Fort Santiago, but a leader just as deserving of the heroic nimbus is a chieftain of Macabebe, Pampanga who came to Tondo urging Lakan-dola to join him in expelling the Spaniards. He challenged the Spaniards to a confrontation at sea. Legazpi met him in the waters of Bankusay, routing his force and killing him.

The Battle of Bankusay, dramatized in Philippine history and literature (al-



VIEWPOINT

DEATH OF A CHIEF JUSTICE

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

The disclaimer reported in the controlled dailies about the unanimous resolution — Resolution No. 18, passed during the last convention in Cebu of the Integrated Bar, is the best proof that freedom of the press is still a dream in this country. It was manifest from the newspaper stories that the IBP resolution was not quoted in context, in order to make it appear as though there was no resolution for the lifting of martial law during the convention. For the sake of truth and accuracy, why do the newspapers not publish the full text of the IBP resolution No. 18 so the people will know the real sentiments of the 3,000 lawyers who gathered in Cebu from April 5-7?

worse. Now they are blaming Meralco's old equipments for the recurrent power failures, usually unannounced which disrupt work in offices, in factories and even in residences. On the other hand, Meralco has been blaming the NPC for failure to supply power to the Meralco. This is a game of passing the buck — but where does the buck end? The people of Metro-Manila are interested only in the solution to the crippling effects of these frequent and unannounced power interruptions. Factories are losing heavily with brown-outs, courts could not function properly when it is dark and even peace and order conditions suffer. Let us stop passing the buck on these brown-outs, we need results.

Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro died on board a plane on his way to New Delhi a few days ago. With his untimely passing, the late Chief Justice left a void in the Supreme Court in particular and in legal profession in general. Not many outside the legal profession know that the integration of the Bar in this country was, to a large extent, the fruit of the untiring efforts of Justice Castro. He, above others in the Bench, really went out of his way months before Bar integration became a reality in order to drum up support of lawyers all over the country for Bar integration. If for this alone, all the lawyers in this country should feel a sense of loss in the passing of the Chief Justice.

Manila IV chapter of the Integrated Bar, of which I am the president sincerely mourns the passing away of Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro. It was he, in fact, who honored my chapter by calling it the premier IBP chapter in the country. It is my prayer, therefore, joined by the rest of the officers and members of my chapter that God in his infinite wisdom and mercy grant to the soul of Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro, eternal and loving peace.

The newspapers last Sunday headlined the story that Mr. Marcos has called for a meeting on the recurrent power brown-outs in Metro-Manila. I am happy that Mr. Marcos himself has finally realized the very poor service which the Meralco and the National Power Corporation have been giving to the people in Metro-Manila which, since martial law, turned from bad to

though with the wrong hero), demonstrates, like the Battle of Mactan, our ancestors' love for freedom.

Presidential Assistant and Civil Service Commissioner Jake Clave was quoted from Baguio City as having urged the Ministry of Education to take over all teaching schools on the thesis that private educational institutions turn out half baked teachers. I think this assertion of my friend Jake Clave is a sweeping denunciation of private colleges and universities in the country. And I take exception to this sweeping charge of Mr. Clave because I am sure that graduates who are products of private institutions — with some exceptions, of course, can't be less prepared and qualified as those from government institutions. In fact it is not uncommon to find graduates of private colleges and universities to be better prepared and better trained than those turned out by some state funded schools.

Former Vice-President and Senator now Assemblyman Emmanuel Pelaez delivered a substantially strong speech before the lawyers of Quezon Province and their guests gathered at the Antigua Restaurant in Lucena City last April 20 on the occasion of the formal induction of the new Board of officers of the Quezon IBP chapter, headed by President Euclides Abcede and Vice-President Eulogio Alzaga. Mr. Pelaez challenged the lawyers to take the lead in speaking for the silent majority of our people during these days of unfreedom. He urged his listeners to exercise their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and the press and lamented the fact that present-day newspapers remain timid in reporting news and events because of martial law. I join Mr. Pelaez in this noble crusade. It has been my creed to seek the return of democratic ways in our country. For the cause of freedom, may we succeed.

by ERNIE R. RODRIGUEZ

IN HARNESS. One of the predictions I made in this column early this year was the item about the death of a prominent public official in our country. I did not mention the name because my ESP was not specific on the matter. Well, it happened late last week, and it shocked me profoundly. Because the one involved had been my very close friend and ally for well over 46 years, nearly half a century. What was tragic about it all was the fact that we had agreed to see each other upon his return from abroad. It was to discuss a matter of extreme importance to him and, incidentally, also to me.

I first met Fred Ruiz Castro at the old library of the University of the Philippines on Padre Faura, in 1933. This building is now occupied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. My compadre and former professor at the Ateneo de Manila, the late Teodoro Evangelista (the famous debater who was president of Far Eastern University at the time of his death), suggested to me that I see Castro regarding help for an organization I was working on. I had founded and organized the New (Real) Youth Party, which had decided to cast its lot with President Quezon on the controversial Hare-Hawes-Cutting Law. The UP then was the stronghold of the "pros," and most of its student leaders were staunch supporters of the Osrox (Osmeña-Roxas) faction. Among them were Wenceslao Q. Vinzons, Arturo M. Tolentino, Jose B. Laurel Jr., Vicente Correa, Domocao Alonto and Jose Alejandrino.

At any rate, Fred Ruiz Castro was waiting for me in the library. He was in his ROTC uniform and he introduced me to his bosom pal Macario Peralta, Jr., later to become a resistance leader, a senator and secretary of national defense. I talked to them for more than an hour, around a table, a few meters away from General Emilio Aguinaldo's famous crocodile. Fred and Mac did not have to be persuaded; they were great admirers of Quezon and they had no liking for the Vinzons-Tolentino group. At the State University, then and now, there has never been a unity of ideas and ideals.

When Quezon asked me for a group of student leaders who could join him in his speaking tour of the Visayas, in the nationwide campaign for the acceptance of the H-H-C Law, I chose Fred Ruiz Castro, Rafael David Jr. of the University of Santo Tomas, and Feliseno Rivera of Cebu. While Fred was delivering his speech at the Plaza Libertad in Iloilo City, the rain fell in torrents and many of the crowd got wet. One of them was a young lawyer, Treñas, who developed pneumonia and died. He was Roxas's candidate for the Senate but did not live to sit at the Upper House.

In 1935, Fred became editor of the Philippine Collegian, the UP student organ. He took Mac Peralta as his managing editor. Only the year before, I had a memorable tiff with the Collegian editor, Armando J. Malay, and the UP quick the College Editors' Guild, of which I was the president. However, Fred, was of a different persuasion. He was my friend and supporter. The Collegian, needless to state, was welcomed back into the fold.

During his incumbency as the UP campus editor, Fred was for a time (in January 1936) suspended from his post by the university president, Jorge C. Bocobo. He had allowed the publication of an article by UP alumnus Teodoro Agoncillo, which was a review of a book written by Prof. Ricardo Pascual impugning the alleged retraction of Dr. Jose Rizal. Fr. Edward J. McCarthy a UP student and an articulate Catholic priest, brought the matter to the attention of President Bocobo, and upon the latter's recommendation, the dean of the UP college of law suspended Castro for a week. After an investigation of the case by the College Editors' Guild, as president, I reproached Castro for publishing the article but I ruled that the penalty was too severe, and that a reprimand would have served the purpose.

Upon reading of my decision in the metropolitan dailies, President Bocobo called me up by phone and we had a heated exchange on the matter. In the end, however, he did apologize for suspending Fred Ruiz Castro, and we considered the matter closed.

For many years thereafter, Fred and I did not have much contact with each other. But he made it a point to attend all meetings of the CEG Alumni Association, and he turned out to be a most active participant in all our activities. Even though he had attained the heights in the government hierarchy, he never developed a swell head; he was as always affable, easy to approach, very accommodating and helpful to the less fortunate of his fellow guilders. He was fond of ribbing everybody, particularly myself.

He had become Judge Advocate General of the armed forces. President Magsaysay's executive secretary, associate justice and later presiding justice of the Court of Appeals, then associate justice and finally chief justice of the Supreme Court. As Chief Justice, he was technically the No. 2 Man in the Philippines. This is because we have no more Vice President of the Philippines. Did all these honors that were heaped on him change him? No, Fred was always the Fred I knew in our student days.

We first learned of his ailment when after helping us mightily in the preparations for our ruby anniversary in 1971, where he

If you are a borrower paying off a mortgage in a commercial bank, the process is rather simple. You go to the bank, pay what you owe, and the same day the bank gives you back the title to your property securing the mortgage and, along with it, a release of mortgage duly signed and notarized. You then take the title to the register of deeds and have the mortgage cancelled. The entire process should take no more than three or four days.

Sometime last March, I paid off a mortgage to the GSIS and just to get the exact amount of the balance owed took one day. I said, "How come? Isn't this already computerized?" I thought that, to get the balance outstanding in any loan, all they had to do was punch in a few code numbers, push a couple of buttons and they'd get a printout of all the pertinent information from their multi-million-peso computer. Sure, sure, the lady said. "But we don't trust our computer, so we compute everything manually."

Anticipating a lot of red tape, I took the trouble of consulting with the next department that had to process my papers. "I'll tell you what," said the department chief, "If you

was to be the moderator of the debate between the late President Carlos P. Garcia and CEG alumnus Raul S. Manglapus, he failed to show up. He was sick in Baguio. After that, we had to hold most of our CEG alumni activities at noontime because he said his health would not permit him to attend evening affairs.

He told me that he had a heart condition and he had seen the best heart doctors in the US about his ailment. He said he had three sets of medicine to take and he kept them in his bathroom, in his car and, in his pocket, so that in case of any emergency, he could not be caught flatfooted. He took to playing golf in earnest and every weekend would find him and his cronies at the nearest golf courses.

I wanted him to succeed me as president of the CEG Alumni Association. During our last election of officers, I broached to him the idea. But he would not hear of it. He insisted on my staying on the job, although I wangled from him the promise that he would succeed me in 1981, on the golden jubilee of the association. I said that he would no longer be the chief justice then and he could find the time to run our association. He smiled and retorted, "on condition that you (I) remain as president now." He was himself elected my first vice president.

(Page 6, please)

comments

RED TAPE AT GSIS

by H. Q. BORRAMEO

want to save a few days' waiting time, pay in cash, not check." Why, I asked. Didn't they accept bank managers' checks anymore? Of course they do. But they still wait for four days for the check to clear.

In other words, the GSIS doesn't trust bank managers' checks anymore. Maybe it has a good reason for that. Anyway, I had to get cash from the bank — this was the next day — and take it to the GSIS. One big, fat bundle of P100 notes. It took the GSIS cashier about half an hour to count it four times. She issued me an official receipt on which it was stated that payment had been made in cash.

Back to the accounting department with the receipt. Paid in full? Okay, next step. More papers, more computations, then to the next department. I wondered if this would already be the auditing section. Nope. Back to the collection department. What for? Hadn't the papers just come from there? And wasn't that official receipt saying "paid in cash" enough evidence of full payment? No, sir. "We must verify the payment and the chief of the collections must sign it." So, back to collection.

Next day I went there to find out if the papers had moved. Nope. They were still in the collection department but — "You know we work fast here." — the papers had already been signed by the chief. They had to be sent back to the accounting. Okay, but the chief was in the main office, nobody could sign it and get it moved to auditing.

So, back again the next day. Any progress? May kulang pa! Auditing will want a copy of the mortgage itself so, if I had my copy, would I be so kind as to bring it over so auditing can check it? That's strange, though. The man in accounting was certain that auditing keeps a copy of every mortgage signed by GSIS. So, why ask for the borrower's copy? The man whispered in my ear: "They're just too lazy to dig up their own copy."

Realizing, however, that I would only lose more time arguing, I gave them my copy of the mortgage. On top of this, auditing wanted a Xerox copy of the title of the mortgaged property. And guess what? The copying machine belonging to GSIS wasn't working and that was too bad. The borrower would have to furnish the copy himself. Anyway, for his convenience, there was a copying machine somewhere in the building where, for P2.50 you could have a copy made.

Two weeks after I had



ANONG KINABUKASAN SA 1980?

Ni LUCIO LIBAO DE GALA

1880 Trinidad Rizal, Hehobosa, Tondo, Metro Manila

Sa kasalukuyan ay hindi natatagpuan ang multi-milyong proyektong sa Benguet na mistulang invisible at di makita ay alam ng lahat. Ang pagtatamasa ng masarap na buhay, naglalakihang mansion ng mga pinunong banyan, samantalang ginigisa sa sariling mantika ang kahabag-habag na mamamayan ay hindi rin lingid sa mga mamamayan.

Kung hindi natatagpuan ang taong 1979 at di magkakaisa ang liderato ng bansa, madilim ang kinabukasan ng Republika.

Ang mga palatandaan ng kasalukuyan, ay ang malubhang situasyon ng pagkabaon sa ibang bansa ng Pilipinas sa utang na umabot na sa 8 bilyon dollar, na katumbas ng 56 bilyon piso, na ang pagasa na lamang ay magkaroon ng bagong liderato upang malaman kung saan napunta ang mala-dambuhalang halagang ito na nangyari sa panahon ng Martial Law, na marahil maputi na ang uwak bago tayong makabayad.

Ang karumaldumal na racket sa Central Visayas, P15 milyon. P15 milyong anomalya sa Teach-

her's Camp at ang multi-milyong proyektong sa Benguet na mistulang invisible at di makita ay alam ng lahat. Ang pagtatamasa ng masarap na buhay, naglalakihang mansion ng mga pinunong banyan, samantalang ginigisa sa sariling mantika ang kahabag-habag na mamamayan ay hindi rin lingid sa mga mamamayan.

Habang sa bansang ito ay hindi naibabalik ang buod na karapatan ng kanyang mamamayan na isinasaad ng Saligang Batas, huwag umasa sa paghihintay ng matatag at matibay na Republika para sa araw ng bukas.

Sinabi ni Gat Jose P. Rizal, "Ang paghihirap ng mamamayan na walang kalayaan, ay hindi dapat isisi sa kanila, at ito ay dapat panagutan ng kanilang pinuno. Upang ang isa ay dapat managot, kinakailangan ang isa ay dapat bumilos ng malaya." THE WHOLE TRUTH.

NO OTHER WAY

President Marcos has taken the bull by the horns and has personally issued directives to stabilize and lower the prices of basic commodities, particularly those of food, in Metro Manila.

Beef and fish will be imported and will be distributed through special stalls in the public markets, through supermarkets and even through barangays.

The prices of other essential products, such as cooking oil, milk, sugar, will be strictly watched, and any upward tendency will be nipped in the bud.

These measures are most welcome and will undoubtedly hold back the line against profiteering but for how long?

What is clearly needed are long-term solutions to the problem. The government must work out a program which will insure a steady supply of all essential commodities not only for one or two or three months but for the entire year, and the years to come.

It is only by providing for a steady supply and for an efficient system of distribution that high prices can be licked. There is no other way.

made my full payment, I still hadn't gotten my title back. There were still a few more steps in the process that had to be done, all for the protection of the GSIS. And that really floored me because, I thought, at that point in time, I was the one that needed protection, not GSIS. As a matter of fact, they found out that they had overcharged me, that I had paid more than I needed to, but assured me the overpayment would be given back to me along with the title.

As I write this, three weeks after paying the

System, I am still waiting for my title to be released back to me with the mortgage duly cancelled. I had to go back no less than six times and had to lose a lot of time that could have been devoted to better pursuits than chasing papers up and down the GSIS building. But I'm not blaming those poor GSIS employees. They were only doing their job, government style. They weren't the ones who thought up all those bureaucratic procedures. But whoever did hasn't heard yet of the presidential decrees doing away with red tape.

WE Classified Ads**LEGAL NOTICES • BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Republika ng Pilipinas
HUKUMANG PANGKA-
BATAAN AT PAGSASA-
MAHANG PANTAHANAN
(Juvenile and Domestic
Relations Court)
Lungsod Quezon

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADOPTION OF
THE MINOR JENNIFER
D. CABILANGAN,

SP. PROC. NO.
QG-00863

GAUDENCIO A. TURQUIO
and LUCRECIA DALIDA,
Petitioners.

x — — — — x

ORDER

The spouses Gaudencio A. Turquio and Lucrecia Dalida-Turquio filed herein verified petition on March 28, 1979 praying that, after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor Jennifer D. Cabilangan be declared their child by adoption.

It is alleged that the minor sought to be adopted was born in Muntinlupa, Metro-Manila on March 27, 1977 to Ricardo C. Cabilangan and Delia C. Dalida; that her natural parents have given their consent to herein proposed adoption; that she has no property of her own; and that petitioners have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that herein petition be set for hearing on May 28, 1979 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, before this Court sitting at the 4th Floor, New City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro-Manila. Notice is hereby given that anyone who has objection to the petition should file, on or before the date of hearing, his opposition thereto with a statement of the grounds therefor.

Let this Order be published at petitioner's expense once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication is made not later than May 13, 1979, or at least two (2) weeks before the hearing, in the "WE" (For the Young Filipino), a newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1079.

Let copies of the Order, the petition and its annexes be served on the Office of the Solicitor General and the Director, Bureau of Family and Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Services and Development. The latter is hereby directed to conduct a social case study on petitioners and the minor sought to be adopted, including her natural parents, within thirty (30) days from receipt hereof; to submit a report

Republic of the Philippine
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC
RELATIONS COURT
Manila

IN RE: PETITION FOR
DISSOLUTION OF THE
CONJUGAL PARTNER-
SHIP OF GAINS AND
FOR COMPLETE SEPA-
RATION OF PROPERTY

CIVIL CASE NO. E-02552

FLORO JAYME and
CAYETANA B. TABAR-
JAYME,
Petitioners.

x — — — — x

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The spouses, Floro Jayme and Cayetana B. Tabar-Jayme, residents of 130 Rizal, Ormoc City and 2186 Road 3, San Jose, Sta. Ana, Metro Manila, respectively, were married on October 17, 1959 under a regime of conjugal partnership.

A hearing in this case has been set on May 25, 1979 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court sitting at 1101 Galicano Apacible Street, Paco, Manila, and notice is hereby given to all creditors of the above-named spouses, as well as of their conjugal partnership, to appear at the above-scheduled hearing in order that their interests may be safeguarded.

This Notice shall be published at the expense of the spouses, share and share alike, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication shall not be later than May 18, 1979 or one (1) week before the date of hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to which the same shall be distributed by the Clerk of Court pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1079, dated January 28, 1977.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE REGINA O. ORDONEZ-BENITEZ, Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Manila, this 16th day of April, 1979.

DOROTEA A. CUARTER
Clerk of Court

April 28, May 5-12, 1979

thereon at least one (1) week before the hearing; and to be present on the date and time hereof.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Metro-Manila, Philippines, March 30, 1979.

LEONOR INES LUCIANO
Presiding Judge
April 21, 28, May 5, 1979

**Book on
young FM
endorsed**

Presidential Assistant Victor G. Nituda's forthcoming book, "The Young Marcos," has been endorsed by the Regional Association of Developmental Information Officers (RADIO) of Metro Manila as a source of inspiration for the Filipino youth.

Speaking through Herman D. Dabalus, president of the organization and municipal administrator of Malabon, RADIO said that "the merits of the book rest as much on the originality and interesting quality of its contents as on its avowed objective to inspire the Filipino youth.

Dabalus was referring to the various anecdotes on the childhood years of President Marcos which are contained in the book and are being published for the first time.

"All of us," Dabalus said, "are curious about how a great man lived as a child or a youth because such knowledge may help us bring up our children properly or inspire us to excellence." He said that "these hitherto unpublished anecdotes on the young life of our beloved President make up an invitation which any book-reader will find hard to resist."

"The Young Marcos" is published by Foresight International, Inc. with offices at the second floor of Relt International Building, 1313 M. H. del Pilar, Ermita, Manila. Exclusive distributor is Always Marketing Corporation.

CALOOCAN
(from page 3)

Robles said the appropriation will come from underestimated revenues, reversions of appropriations for items not needed such as salary appropriations for vacant positions, and the increase of the city's share of the proceeds of the special education fund tax on real properties estimated at P500,000.

Caloocan City is the second local government in Metro Manila to decide on the grant of a 30 percent pay hike to its personnel. Last week, Quezon City decided to give a similar 30 percent increase to its officials and employees also effective May 1.

P1-M SPORTS
(from page 3)

proved by the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, governor of Metro Manila. Liongson said the sports complex will include a tennis court, basketball court, pelota court, skating rink and a mini-park. The city engineer's office will undertake the construction which is targeted for completion by December this year. — RUL

**B'gay captains
hold dialogue**

QUEZON CITY—Some 100 barangay captains and councilmen from the 2nd district of this city held an open-forum-dialogue with Assemblymen Estanislao Alinea and Rogelio Quiambao recently.

The group was led by Barangay Captain Carlos R. Rances, Sr. of Barangay Project 6 and president of the Katipunan ng mga Barangay.

The two assemblymen gave their reports in connection with their promises made to the barangay officials and residents during the 1978 IBP elections.

According to them, water supply has been improved in the areas where there used to be shortage. Also, they said, squatters from the different areas in Quezon City have already been relocated.

The barangay charter is now ready and will be filed sometime this month, Quiambao said. About P1.2 million for death and sickness benefits of barangay officials who are at the same time govern-

ment employees is provided for, according to him.

On the other hand, Sangguniang Bayan Members Jose Paculdo, Melencio Castelo and Willie Altuna rendered their individual reports. Paculdo, an action officer of the mayor, said projects are on priority basis. Infrastructure projects depend upon the need of the community and are determined by the planning and development office, he said.

Castelo, community relations officer and in-charge of open spaces, said 59 hectares of open space of the National Housing Authority will be turned over to the city government. He added that about 250 hectares from the private subdivisions were already turned over to the city.

Genito, Jr. in whose residence the meeting was held, reported to the group the widening and cementing of Tandang Sora Avenue and the development of a park at Pag-asa are in full swing. — ROD O. FRANCIA

HOW MUCH
(from page 3)

statements made by the city and municipal treasurers, it is surmised that the increases may be given in two stages:

First, an outright 20 percent pay boost to take effect this May 1; and

Second, the additional 10 percent to be given some three or four months later, after the local government shall have determined the fund sources.

NEWS DEALERS
(from page 3)

zine Stands Association which is headed by Miss Maria Luisa Correa. The association has 50 members doing business on strategic sidewalks all over the city.

To appraise the newspaper and magazine dealers of their duties as "information officers of the city government", a three-day seminar will be conducted for them, as recommended by Permitting and Licensing Officer Alberto Galarpe.

Galarpe said the seminar will be managed by the Public Affairs and Information Office under Florentino Lopus, city information officer. The affair is planned to be held from May 16 to 18 at the QC session hall.

FRED Ruiz CASTRO
(from page 5)

sident, with Comelec Chairman Leonardo B. Perez as second vice president, and former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez as third vice president.

I saw Fred Ruiz Castro for the last time at the Quezon City elections on the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. The IBP is Fred Ruiz Castro's brainchild, and he never missed casting his vote in IBP Quezon City chapter elections. He greeted me on coming in and going out. "I voted for you, Ernie," were his parting words. He was in apparent good health. But it was the last meeting for us.

On past occasions, I repeatedly warned him against taking the plane for his trips abroad or locally. I told him that flying was bad for people with the heart condition or high blood pressure. But he was a man dedicated to the service, he was a patriot, he did not want to disappoint anybody. He was humble to a fault.

Fred Ruiz Castro was a great man. More than that, he was a good man. I will mourn his death to the day of my own. He was irreplaceable in my heart, if not the hearts of all his countrymen.

Rest in peace, Fred. Goodbye, sweet prince. We will miss you.

Criticism answered

MANILA — "Much ado about nothing."

This was the comment of City Hall's knowledgeable quarters to the front-page news story in today's (Monday) "Bulletin Today" hitting Mayor Bagatsing "for having delegated too much of his powers" to City Administrator Genaro Herrera. The "powers" referred to in the story concerns the creation of the Internal Control Office and its being headed by Herrera.

The City Hall informants brushed aside the criticism by stating that



Mayor BAGATSING

Mayor Bagatsing could not possibly go over and sign the thousands of vouchers and checks which need the city executive's approval every day because such work would take too much of his time.

The creation of the Internal Control Office by the mayor has been necessitated by the decision of the Commission on Audit to do away with the pre-audit of vouchers for less than P5,000 for certain claims and less than

P10,000 for other classes of claims, the informant said.

This means, they explained, that such vouchers do not anymore go to the office of the city auditor for pre-audit and approval. To fill the void created by the COA action, management, or the mayor's office, is called upon to counter-check the vouchers and checks previously prepared and approved by the city treasurer.

The same sources said the Internal Control Office has been organized by Bagatsing pursuant to a law requiring all government offices to set up their internal audit systems. The approval of vouchers and signing of checks which longer go to the city auditor for pre-audit is thus a valid and necessary function of the Internal Control Office.

Such a delicate function, they added, could only be carried out by a man enjoying the fullest trust of the city mayor. Since Herrera has earned the mayor's confidence, and since he holds office as City Administrator, it is not surprising that Bagatsing should have given him this new assignment, the informants stated.

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whether you belong to those families who have lost sons or husbands in battle in the jungles of Mindanao, Basilan and Sulu, you cannot disagree with the truth that today our freedoms of speech, of the press, the right to private property, the freedom to peaceably assemble to petition for redress of grievances have been abridged. You cannot deny that our congress was dismantled and are faced with the spectacle of a Batasan going through the motions of passing laws while the authoritarian ruler insists in issuing decrees.

In our Constitution, we have erected stout walls around the liberties of the individuals, conscious of the true strength and glory of the democratic system which is predicated on the inalienable rights of freedom of the citizens. But today we are witnessing massive assaults on our constitutional rights and liberties and yet many of us remain indifferent. Please remember that a Constitution, no matter how good if not observed with faithfulness will be empty and valueless. Our Constitution must stand as the symbol of our genius and know-how in the art of government. But it is only as good as we make it. Unless, therefore we give it life and meaning in the context of our national life, unless the civil, political and social liberties it proclaims assume practical validity in our lives, unless those in power adhere to its precepts — men sworn on oath to defend it, to uphold it — this Constitution will become nothing but an ornamental collection of empty, practical abstractions. As Rec o warned:

"Isolated infractions, if left uncorrected may in time become a chronic condition. If the Constitution is allowed to be violated in one provision, it will be easily violated in another provision. If the Constitution is suspended to one group of citizens, it can be suspended to another group of citizens. If one department of government can invade and usurp the powers of another, so it can invade and usurp the totality of power. And if as a result, the Constitution falls, we all shall fall with it, the learned, the hesitant, the wealthy and the poor — the lovers of democracy and its enemies and detractors."

It is for this reason that my thoughts, tonight, go to the countless of brothers, Filipinos who are suffering because of this long dark night of unfreedom. My thoughts go to a good friend and a great Filipino — Ninoy Aquino who has suffered under martial law as no other Filipino has suffered. My thoughts go to our brothers in the countryside, in the hamlets, in the hovels — the people at the bottom of our social pyramid — those misery laden throngs crying out for a chance to partake, if but

INFLATION . . .

comparison with other countries." The following comparative figures, taken from the Asian Development Bank, reflect the changes in consumer prices in the capitals of 10 Asian countries over the period 1970-1977.

Consumer Price Changes
1970 as Base Year

	1970	1976	1977
Sri Lanka	100	146.9	
Malaysia	100	152.9	
Thailand	100	159.6	n.a.

humbly, of the material things so essential for survival — they who bear no weight in the scales of justice — they who hoist men to the seats of governmental power but are the farthest situated from the benefits and advantages to be derived from government service and administration and for their effort receive no recompense save the empty, meaningless and worn-out promises of good things that never come. They live on hovels and feed on crumbs. They are prone to squalor and susceptible to disease. Their worldly possession can be contained in a wicker basket and their ambitions in a mustard seed.

I invite your thoughts towards that direction my dear friends and fellow lawyers. Our mission should go towards that direction — justice, freedom and human rights. As I take this oath, this is my pledge, heart and soul, within the humble limits of our chapter's resources. We shall attempt to blaze new trails in the history of the Integrated Bar — if others say WHY? we shall say WHY NOT?

And finally it is my hope that the members of our chapter will close ranks and be involved in the affairs of the IBP. We pledge you our willing hands and we hope for your support in all worthy causes of the IBP and of the nation. It is our prayer that as we close ranks, we can find the vehicle to foster fraternity, not only among us in Manila IV but with the rest of our brothers in the legal profession everywhere. I wish to take this opportunity, also, to thank those who supported me as I offer my hand to those who opposed. We vote as many but we pray as one.

I close then with Robert Kennedy's words — "the future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow-man alike, timid and fearful at the slightest hint of danger or in the face of new ideas or bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend vision, reason and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals of democracy, of free thought, of free enterprise . . ." And may I add, of a free Philippines, — a nation at peace, a nation with conscience, and with a people united — the land of the free and the home of the brave.

(from page 1)

Singapore	100	163.6
India	100	170.0
Hong Kong	100	173.1
Taiwan	100	188.01
Philippines	100	221.3 233.0
South Korea	100	250.0
Indonesia	100	315.0

Philippine inflation, it appears, far exceeds inflation in neighboring Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and even India. Next to Indonesia, ours is the highest among members of the ASEAN bloc.

Second, not only do we have one of the highest inflation rates in Asia, but it is an inflation whose impact on our people is sharply exacerbated by the fact that Filipino wage earners already suffer from one of the lowest wage rates in Asia. Only recently, the Times Journal reported on a study released by the Asia Pacific Compensation Survey which showed that, out of 10 countries surveyed, the Philippines pays the lowest wage rates. The countries surveyed were Australia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines. In a story captioned "Survey Shows RP with Lowest Wage Structure in Asia-Pacific," the Times Journal said, "Despite the recent adjustment in the minimum wage, the Philippine wage structure is still the lowest among 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region." (Times Journal, April 2, 1979)

A people, suffering from one of the lowest wage incomes in Asia, and plagued by one of the highest inflation rates in the region, deserve a more responsible explanation for their plight than the cavalier observation offered recently by Foreign Minister Romulo that inflation is, after all, a worldwide phenomenon.

Third, unlike in other countries, where inflation is attended by economic development, Philippine inflation is virtually unaccompanied by it. Inflation coexists with an economic structure that has been virtually stagnant for almost a decade.

Meaning of economic development:

First, for a definition of terms, Economic growth is not necessarily economic development. An underdeveloped country, striving for the development of its economy, is concerned primarily with realizing a qualitative change in the structure of that economy rather than in expanding the volume of goods and services it has been producing historically. It is not, or should not be, primarily concerned with mining more iron ore, for example, but with being able to develop the capacity to manufacture steel ingots and finished steel products from that ore; it is not primarily concerned with producing more beer, ice cream and pizzas every year, but with developing the capacity to manufacture engines, machine tools and industrial machineries. To achieve these,

its production base must undergo a qualitative transformation. It must industrialize.

How does one measure, and statistically determine, whether the economic structure of an underdeveloped country is undergoing a qualitative transformation?

The answer certainly is not to be found in the GNP. The GNP merely tells us how much in goods and services an economy is generating. It does not answer the question whether or not the economy is modernizing and industrializing. If the economy, every year, is generating more liquor, soft drinks and cigarettes; if every year it is building more condominiums and sports clubs; if every year it is cutting more logs, building more superhighways, growing more vegetables and extracting more minerals; if every year its barbers are cutting more hair, and its tailors making more suits; if its waiters and hospitality girls are receiving more tips than in previous years, such an economy is "growing", and such "growth" will be reflected in a GNP larger than the year preceding. But that increased GNP does not necessarily spell development. It could in fact mean simply that the distortions and un-

healthy imbalances in that economy are growing.

A major clue to economic development is to be found in that section of the National Income Accounts which records the proportionate share of the various sectors of the economy (Agriculture, Construction, Mining, Manufacturing, etc.) in the nation's total output of goods and services (Its Gross National Product or Gross Domestic Product)

The economic structures of underdeveloped countries possess one characteristic in common. Their manufacturing sector accounts for a comparatively minor proportion of the economy's output, the far greater portion being accounted for by their agricultural sector. An underdeveloped economy that is developing will invariably reflect 1) an increasing percentage share of the manufacturing sector in the Gross Domestic Product, or Gross National Product, as the case may be; and 2) a decreasing percentage share of the agricultural sector in that product.

From comparative figures compiled by the Asian Development Bank, let me illustrate this with the case examples of —

SOUTH KOREA

% Share in Gross Domestic Product

Sectors	1968	1976	
Manufacturing Sector	16.5%	31.5%	(+15)
Agricultural Sector	34.6%	23.0%	(-11.6)

TAIWAN

Manufacturing Sector	23.7%	28.8%	(+5.1)
Agricultural Sector	21.5%	13.8%	(-7.7)

And compare the foregoing with the

PHILIPPINES

Manufacturing Sector	22.5%	23.9%	(+1.4)
Agricultural Sector	30.0%	26.6%	(-3.4)

Source: Asian Development Bank

One notes that the share of the manufacturing sectors of South Korea and Taiwan in the national output over the 8-year period 1968-1976, registered an increase of 15 and 5.1 percentage points, respectively. That of the Philippines, in contrast, registered a measly increase of 1.4 percentage point over a period that spans almost a decade.

As for the agricultural sector, in the cases of South Korea and Taiwan, that sector's share in the national output diminished substantially by 11.6 and 7.7 percentage points, respectively. In contrast, the share of the agricultural sector of the Philippines diminished by a comparatively negligible 3.4 percentage points.

One sees how, in comparison to South Korea and Taiwan, the structural transformation of the Philippine economy over the period 1968-1976 has been literally a marginal one.

One further notes that, in the cases of South Korea and Taiwan, their respective manufacturing sectors, by 1976, accounted for a far greater share of the nation's output than their agricultural sectors. In the case of the Philippines, the agricultural sector, as of 1976, continued to account for a larger

share of the nation's output than the manufacturing sector.

The so-called "economic miracle" of South Korea may be gleaned from, and explained by, the gigantic qualitative change in her production structure over an eight-year period — from one where agriculture had the greater share to one where the manu-

facturing sector now has the greater share in the National Project.

In the context of the structural transformation which the economies of South Korea and Taiwan are undergoing, an increased GNP could really mean economic development, a qualitative expansion in the productive base of their economies. In the opposite case of the Philippines, with its stagnant economic structure, an increased GNP means merely the increasing production of non-essentials (and raw materials for export), which

explain the irrelevance of our economic system to the basic needs of our people as well as to the urgent requirements of our country as a nation state. Hence, while South Korea and Taiwan are now exporting industrial machineries, machine tools, petrochemical and other products of heavy industries, reflective of their authentic and developing industrialization, our steel and heavy industries remain conversation pieces, many of which have not even reached the planning boards. Bananas, handicrafts, cottage industries, shoes and garments serve as the ridiculous symbols of our march towards "development" and "modernity".

No State can possibly take care of its own security without a modern heavy industrial base. In this age of clashing nationalisms, a State whose planners seem more concerned with promoting tourism, building hotels and beautifying boulevards, than they are in developing the capability to install and operate heavy industries, is simply doomed. Hence, for example, the nation has had to sign a military bases agreement, which exposes us to the risk of nuclear war, simply because, as a nation state, we have not developed the industrial muscle that would enable us to equip our Armed Forces, and to defend ourselves. To do so requires heavy industrial capability which neighbor countries like South Korea and Taiwan are now fast acquiring.

So much then for the nature of Philippine inflation, its dimension, and the economic context in which it operates. It is one of the highest in Asia; it bears down on a people agonizing over one of the lowest wage incomes in Asia; and it plagues an economy which, in terms of development, is one of the most lethargic in Asia.

This is clear from the following comparative performance (rate of change) of the manufacturing sectors of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore over the period 1968-1976.

	1968	1972	1976	Change
Philippines	22.5%	23.9%	23.9%	(+1.4)
Singapore	16.7%	21.1%	20.5%	(+3.8)
Thailand	15.9%	19.3%	20.3%	(+4.4)
Malaysia	n.a.	13.0%	15.9%	(+2.9)

over a 4-year period)

Source: Asian Development Bank

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One sees that in terms of rates of development, the Philippines is surpassed even by Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, which puts our country in the bottom scale of progress in this area.

The situation is both tragic and ridiculous. Philippine inflation is working sheer, indescribable havoc on the lives of our people. It is dispossessing the middle class, further impoverishing the already impoverished, condemning to slow, inexorable starvation millions of our deprived and underprivileged

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Kailangan magkaisa ang mga mamamayan

ni JOVITO R. SALONGA

(Salin sa Wikang Pilipino ng talumpati ni dating Senador Jovito R. Salonga sa Manila Bay Breakfast Club noong Marso 2, 1979)

IKAAPAT NA LABAS

Bakit ang suliraning nauukol sa ligalidad o pagkakalihitmo ay napakahalaga sa buong bansa?

Harapin natin ang kato-tonanan.

1. Sa kabila ng paulit-ulit na pagtawag sa panibansang pagkakasundo at pagkakaisa, ang bansa, sa kato-tonanan ay hindi nagkaisa. Maaaring may pagkakasundo o pagsangayon ng isang binuong grupo o pangkat, tinakot na mamamayan. Ang pagkakasundo o ang pagsangayon na ito ay magwawakas, sa malaon at madali. Ang bansang nagmamalasakit ng lubos sa kalayaan, na napakagandang pinatunayan sa atin ng kasaysayan kailan man ay hindi maaaring magtaguyod o tumangkilik sa pamahalaang diktatorial na inilatang sa atin balik at upang parisan sa kaanyuan ng martial law. Ang hindi mapantayang ingay sa gabl ng makaraang halalan — higit na magulo at maiingay kaysa alin mang bagong taong pagdiriwang — ay nagpapatunay (kung kinakailangan pang patunayan), ang lalim at lawak ng oposisyon o pagtutol sa sistema ng pamahalaang nasa ilalim ng martial law.

2. Ang pamahalaang hindi lihitmo ay nagdurusa sa kakulangan sa kredibilidad o paniniwala, dito sa ating bansa at sa ibang bansa. Hindi man lamang malapaliyag sa mamamayan ang kalutasan sa suliranin ng pagpapalit o ang pagkakasundo-sundong sa pamunuan (succession in leadership), sa pangamba na ito ay magbigay daan sa sabwatan o intriga at maghahasik ng binhi ng pagkakawatak-watak. Dahilan diyen ay hindi makagawa ng maayos na paglilipat ng kapangyarihan.

3. Ang pamahalaang hindi ligal ay walang pagpapahalaga sa pananagutan sa mamamayan. Sapagkat hindi nagmula sa tao ang kapangyarihan, nadarama ng mga namumuno na kanilang magagawa ang lahat ng kamalang naisin, hanggang sila ay tinatangkilik ng militar. Iyan ang dahilan kung bakit ang mga miyembro ng gabinete at ibang matataas na pinuno na winalal sa o matagal ay dapat namamahinga ay may lakas na ng loob na manatili sa kapangya-

rihan, sa kabila ng paulit-ulit na pahayag ukol sa pagbabalasa ng kabine. e. Kung sa pananagutan sa mamamayan iyan ang siyang sagisag ng isang lihitimong pamahalaan, na maging napakalaking kapahamakan sa buong bansa. Tingnan natin ang resulta sa nakaraang pitong taon.

— Di kapanipaniwala ng nakawan at kabulukan (graft and corruption). Inilarawan tayo ng Fortune Magazine bilang pangalawang pinakakurap na bansa sa Asia.

— Nakasisindak na kaluhuan, karangyaan, marahil ay hindi mapapantayan ng alin mang bansa sa dakong ito ng daigdig;

— napakaayos na paglabag sa pangumahing karapatan ng tao (basic human rights), na inilalahad at pinatunayan ng Amnesty International, ng International Commission of Human Rights, at ng Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines;

— ang patuloy na paghihirap ng mga tao, at ang patuloy na dumaraming pinaglipunipong kayamanan na nasa kamay ng ilang pamilya at oligarkiya;

— ang pinakamalaking utang panglabas sa buong Asia na ngayon ay itinataya, humigit kumulang sa 8 bilyon dolyar o 60 bilyon piso;

— at ang maunlad na pangingibabaw ng mga banyaga sa mahahalagang parte ng ating kabuhayan.

Lahat ng ito ay totoo, maitatamang ninyo marahil, ano ang kalutasan?

Sa abot ng aking kaalaman, mayroong dalawang pagpipiliang solusyon: ang mapayapang kalutasan at ang marahas na solusyon.

Ang aking mungkahi ay batay sa pagpapalagay na ang ating mamamayan ay ayaw lutasin ito sa pamamagitan ng dahas. Sila ay matiyaga at matilisin — napakamatilisin, sa katunayan, sa pagkakamali. Ngunit katulad ng mga mananakop na Kastila at Hapon, nalaman nila sa kanilang kalungkutan na, mayroong hangganan ang pagtitili ng mga Pilipino. Ang mungkahi ay batay pa rin sa pagpapalagay na ang kalutasan ay magiging makahulugan lamang hanggang sa ang mga ito ay matapat, at dahil diyan, ito ay tatanggapin ng mga mamamayan, kasama ang mga nasa oposisyon:

sa madaling salita, ang mga katawalaawa, hindi tootong plebisito, referendum at eleksiyon ay tiyakang labas dito.

Nalintindihan ko ang pagnanasa ni Ginoong Marcos na tumakbo sa pangpanguluhan halalan na siyang magpapatu ay at magpapasiya sa isyu ng pambansang pamunuan at tuloy lulutas sa suliraning nauukol sa ligalidad. Hindi ko alam kung ano ang gagawin o sasabihin ng mga kasamahan ko sa oposisyon, ngunit aking iminungkahi na ang mga ligal na teknikalidad at ang katumpakan ng konstitusyon ay iwalang bahala upang makamitan ang mapayapang iuna sa suliranin. Si Presidente Marcos ay dapat ituring na angkop (qualified) na tumakbo sa pangpanguluhan eleksiyon, sa kabila ng 1935 konstitusyon, subalit dapat magkaroon ng mahigpit na kasunduan sa mga sumusunod na pangunahing bagay:

1. Ang madalang pag-aalis ng martial law upang ang mga tao ay muling lasapin ang kanilang karapatan at kalayaan, kasama dito ang karapatang magpasiya sa pamahalaan at sa mga mamumuno na kanilang nais.

2. Alang-alang sa kalutasan na matapat at kapanipaniwala, isang tagapangasiwang pamahalaan (caretaker government) na kinabibilangan ng mga sumusunod ang dapat madalang buuin:

(a) Isang kinatawan hiram ng Ginoong Marcos;

(b) Isang kinatawan hiram ng oposisyon;

(c) at isang tagapangulo (chairman) na pinili ng dalawang kinatawan. Sakaling hindi magkasundo o mabigo na sumangayon sa loob ng 15 araw matapos ang kanilang pagkakahirang, ang Chief Justice ng Kataastasang Hukuman sa panahon na idiniklara ang martial law noong 1972 ang siyang uupo bilang tagapangulo.

3. Ang caretaker government ang siyang unang-unang babalik at pagpapalit ng katahimikan at kaayusan. Ito ay magkaroon ng kapangyarihan humirang ng mga ahente at pinuno na sa kanilang palagay ay kakailanganin sa pagpapatupad ng mga kapislahan. Ang tagapagalaga ng pamahalaan ay magkakaroon ng kapangyarihan na magbalas sa lahat ng kagawaran sa pamahalaan, ministro, tanggapan at ahensiya upang maisakatuparan ang pagdara ng isang malaya at matapat na eleksiyon. (May Karugtong)

'Warning' ni Pelaez sa pag-alis ng batas-militar

(Salin sa Pilipino ni R. C. ni Apolonio Batalla na Abril 25, 1979)

Tuazon mula sa column lumabas sa Bulletin Today,

kalagayan: Hanggang ang gawing ganito ay hindi dadaan sa batasan, ang transition ay hindi makapagsisimula.

Ang pagtupad sa demokratikong parliyamantaryo sa panahon ng transition na ipinatupad ng konstitusyon bilang pagsisimula sa normalisasyon ay hindi pa nagumpisa.

Kanyang iminungkahi na "ang administrasyon sa ilalim ng pamumuno ng Presidente ay hindi dapat magsimulang gumawang programa ng gobyerno, kasama ang mungkahi ng panulang batas na may prioridad o kaunahan na maliwanag na binabanggit sa konstitusyon para sa paghaharap sa batasan sa pagbubukas ng ikalawang sesyon.

"Ang mga kasapi ng batasan na hindi miyembro ng gabinete ay kailangang magsimulang gumawang mga panukalang batas na tuwirang may kina sa pitong prioridad na binanggit sa konstitusyon at ibang mabuting panukalang batas na magpapalakas sa pamamaraang demokratiko.

"Ang pamunuan sa batasan ay kailangang pag-aralang mabuti at repasuhin ang daan-daang panukalang batas na nakabibin at mga ulat na para sa pagsasaalang-alang.

Dapat ding tangkain mapabuti ang organisasyon at pamamaraan upang makamitan ang kasanayan sa pagtupad ng tungkulin. Ang Pangulo mismo ang dapat mamuno sa batasan.

INFLATION (from page 7)

ed. Should it continue with its present nature and in its present course, it is bound to explode with socio-political implications too enormous and awesome to contemplate. Ridiculous, because there is absolutely no excuse for people in this country, so richly endowed by nature, to remain poor, and for its economy to remain underdeveloped.

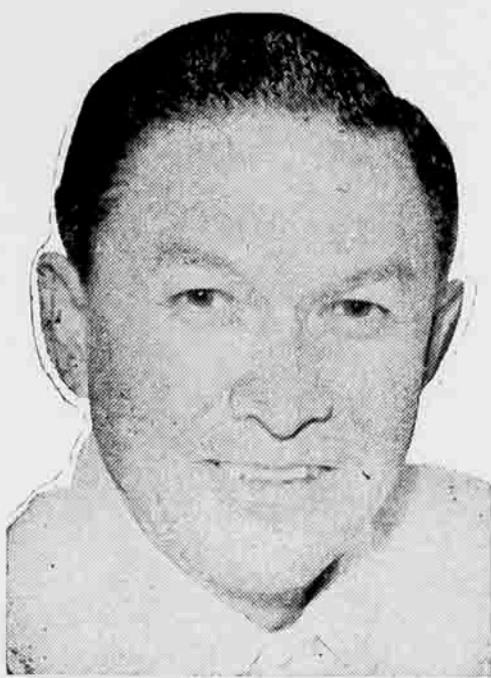
Let us earnestly hope for all our sake, that those who have assumed responsibility for the political and economic destiny of this country wake up, and wake up soon, to the policy, institutional and administrative forces that have brought our land, and our people, to this lamentable, unnecessary and absurd condition.

Ang pagbaklas ng martial law ay hindi maaaring madaliin, sangayon kay kinatawan Emmanuel Pelaez.

Sa isang talumpating pinamagatang "The Nor-

na ang kahinaan at ang kawalan ng kayang lutasin ang mga suliranin at hamon ay naging sanhi sa pagpoproklama ng martial law".

Sinabi niya na ang me-



Kinatawan EMMANUEL PELAEZ

malization Process, na binigkas niya sa harap ng Integrated Bar of the Philippines (Quezon Chapter) noong nakaraang biyernes, naaala niya ang naganap sa pagitan ng mga taong 1920 hanggang 1929.

Sinabi niya na "sa pagitan ng mga taong 1920 hanggang 1929 at taong 1930 hanggang 1939, ang pandigmang sigaw para sa kalayaan ng Pilipinas ay madalian at lubos na kasarinlan".

"At ng ating mga sugo para sa kasarinlan ay tinalakay ang paksang ukol dito, nang sila ay mangagsiupo kasama ng mga nakikiramay na Senador at Kongresista sa US federal congress upang bumalangkas ng batas ukol sa kasarinlan, sumangayon sila sa isang "transition period" o panahong lalalan para sa pagbabago ng kalagayan na kung saan ang magsasariling Philipine Commonwealth ay siyang mamamahala sa pagpapatakbo ng bansa bago iproklama ang pagsasarili. Ito ay gagawin upang hindi gaanong mahirapan ang bansa dala ng pagbabago o pagpapalit ng kalagayan ng bansa".

"Ang pagpapadali sa pagbaklas ng martial law", sinabi niya, "ng walang paghahanda sa mga kakailangang bagay upang ilapad ang pundasyon o gabay ng isang demokratikong lipunan, na pinagibayo ang lakas at muling pinasigla ng mga bagong kuro-kuro, opinyon at pagpapabuti ay maaaring maging dahilan upang ang bansa ay manauli sa lumang sistema ng pulitika

kanismo ukol sa transition ay nakapaloob sa pagkabuo ng Interim Batasang Pambansa, na kung saan ang ilang gawain ay ibinigay ng konstitusyon, at ang pagpapantili ng Pangulo sa kaniyang kapangyarihan sa ilalim ng lumang konstitusyon at ang kapangyarihang lehiislatura na maaaring gamutan sa ilang mga pagkakataon. Pinuna ni Pelaez na ang senaryo ng ng transition na nasa konstitusyon ay hindi sunod.

Sabi niya: Ang batasan ay pinagtibay lamang sa 30 panukalang batas, karamihan dito ay panglokal. Sa mga ito, 21 lamang ang naging batas ng ito ay pagtibayin ng Pangulo. Ang natitirang panukalang batas ay nakabibin. "Hindi nagalaw ang alin man sa pitong kaunahan o prioridad na nakatala sa konstitusyon. Hindi rin sinisimulan ang gawain sa muling pagbabahagi ng disrito. Sa kabuuan ay hindi pa nagsisimula sa gawing lehiislatura na binalangkas para sa transition patungong normalisasyon.

"Sa kabilang dako, ang Pangulo na labis na nagaalala sa suliranin kinakaharap ng bansa dahil sa hirap ng kabuhayan, ay kumilos kahit na walang pakikipagatugulungan sa batasan.

"Ang mga panukalang batas na hinarap ukol sa mabigat na suliranin, lalong-lalo na yaong may kinalamayan sa kasalukuyang pangkabuhayang kahirapan na dala ng krisis sa langis, ay ginawang batas. "Ang pangyayari ay nalagay sa isang gipit na

